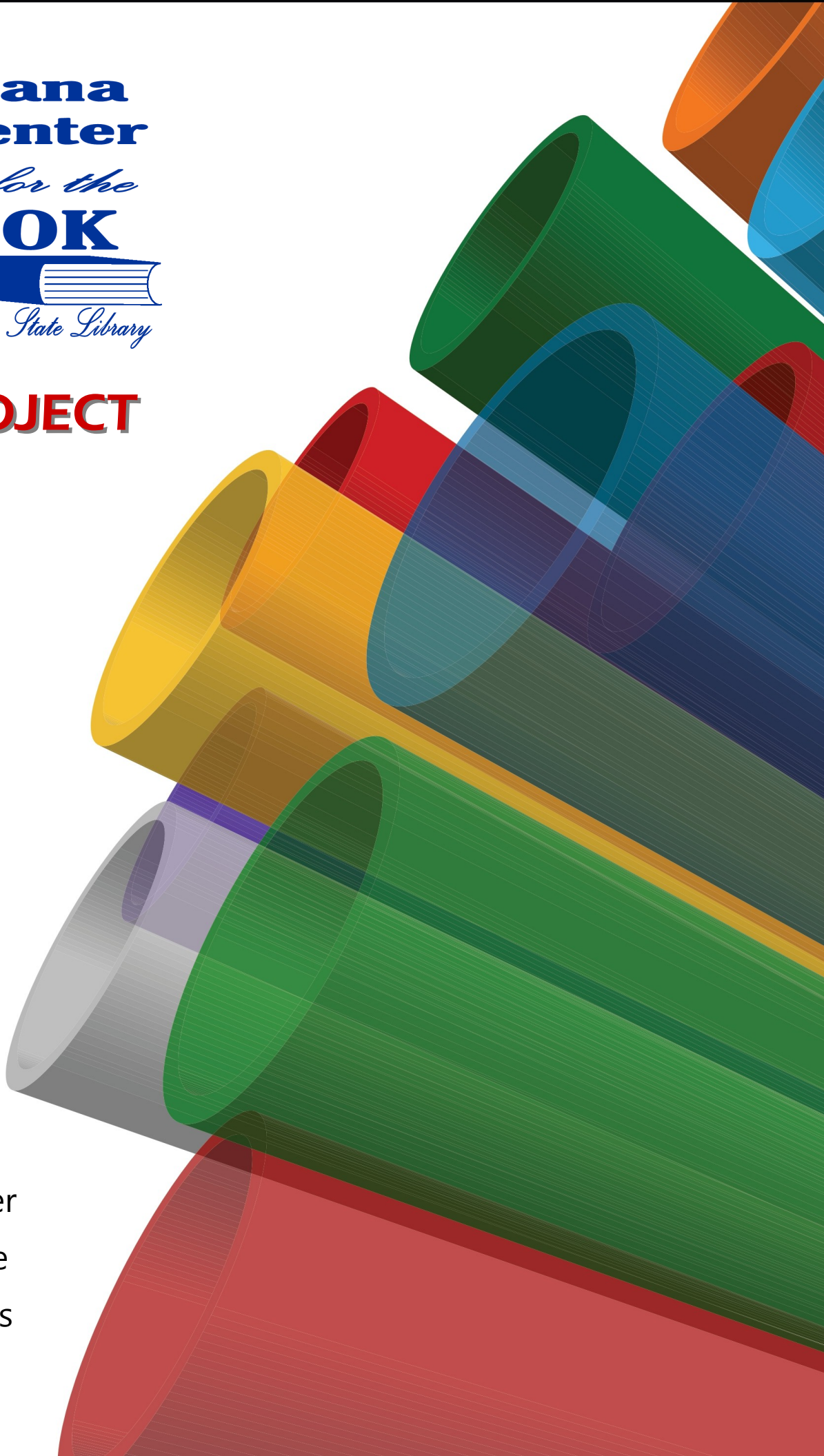
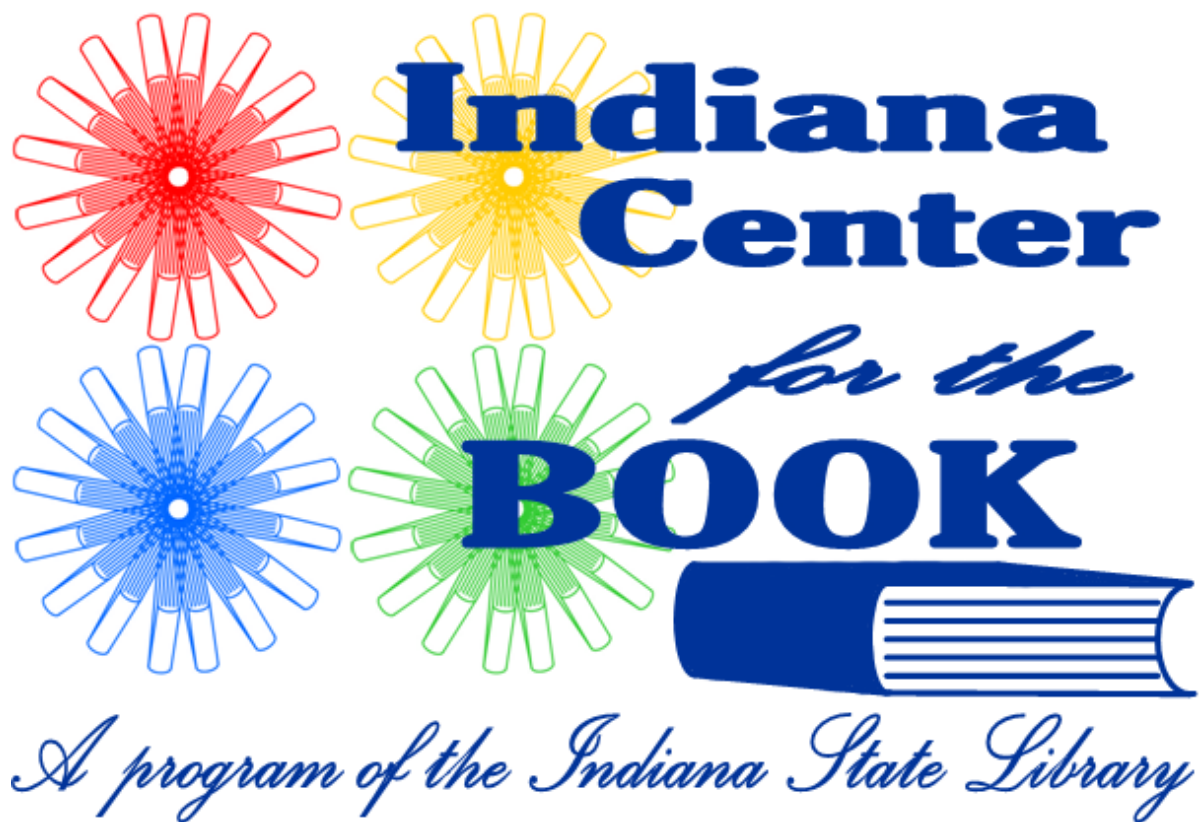


# 2012 PROJECT RENEWAL REQUEST

Submitted for the  
consideration of  
the National Center  
for the Book in the  
Library of Congress





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The Indiana Center for the Book is a program of the Indiana State Library and an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

The Indiana Center for the Book promotes interest in reading, writing, literacy, libraries, and Indiana's literary heritage by sponsoring events and serving as an information resource at the state and local level. The Center supports both the professional endeavors and the popular pursuits of Indiana's residents toward reading and writing.



## INDIANA CENTER FOR THE BOOK

### A PROUD AFFILIATE

Dear Esteemed Friends & Colleagues at the National Center for the Book in the Library of Congress:

In this report, I invite you to take a look at the past three years of Center for the Book programming as well as a sneak peek at a few future initiatives. While we faced many challenges over this past three-year cycle, including staff reductions and spending restrictions as a result of difficult financial times, we are proud of the fact that we were able to maintain programming levels for Center for the Book programs. We are also excited about new opportunities that will be presented as a result of the soon-to-be chartered Indiana State Library Foundation of which a substantial dedicated fund is available exclusively for Indiana Center for the Book activities.

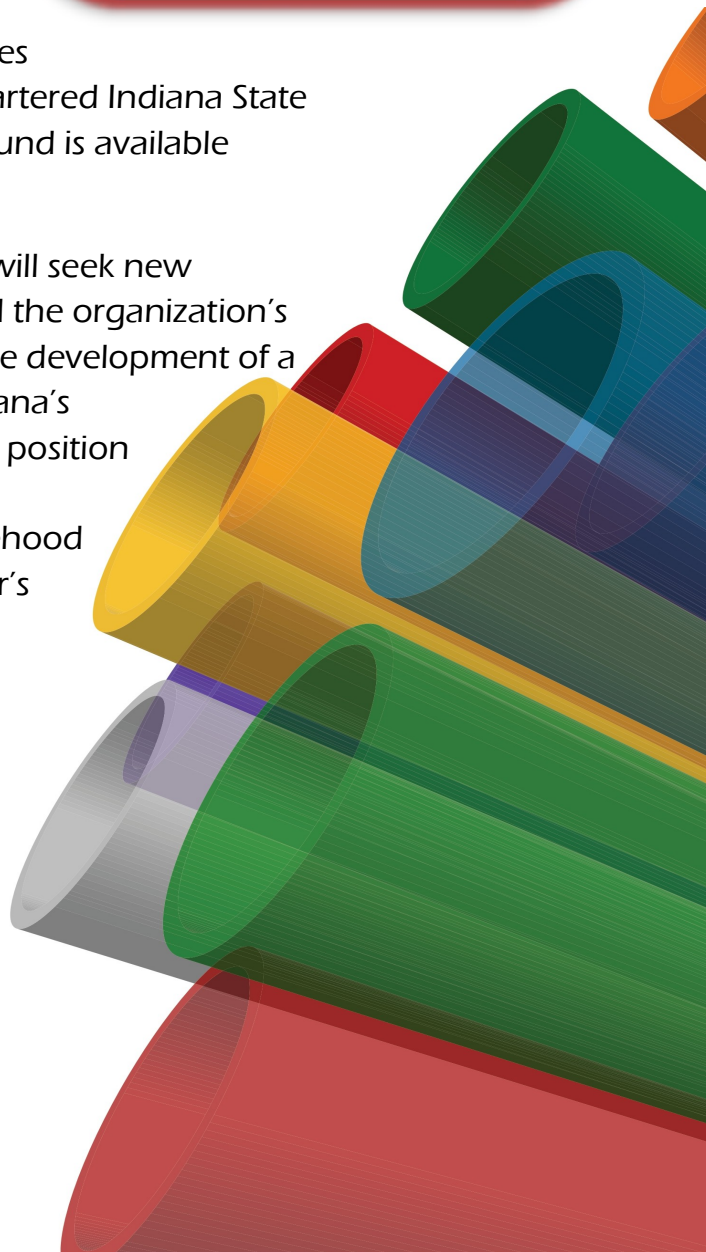
The Indiana Center for the Book in the coming years will seek new opportunities and new partners in an effort to expand the organization's reach. Among the most important projects remains the development of a new Indiana Literary Map. As we look forward to Indiana's Bicentennial in 2016, the Center for the Book will also position itself as the lead administrator for statewide children's programming. The overwhelming success of the Statehood Day Essay Contest lends much credibility to the Center's capacity to effectively administer statewide programs.

The Indiana State Library is very grateful to serve as home or Indiana's Center for the Book affiliate organization and we humbly request to continue in this capacity for another three-year cycle.

Respectfully Yours,



Roberta L. Brooker





# LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

INDIANA STATE LIBRARY  
NEWS RELEASE

## National Literature Contest Honors 124 Hoosier Students

**INDIANAPOLIS** (May 2, 2011) - The Indiana Center for the Book, a program of the Indiana State Library, honored 124 contest semifinalists and 16 finalists at the 2011 Letters About Literature Awards Ceremony held at the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis. Over 300 guests, including students and their teachers and family, attended the ceremony which was headlined by Helen Frost - an award-winning young adult poet and author from Fort Wayne, Ind.

"It is an honor to recognize Indiana's best and brightest students for their exemplary work in the classroom," said Jim Corridan, Associate Director of the Indiana State Library and State Archivist. "This year's honorees should be proud to be chosen among the top 9% of over 69,000 Letters About Literature entrants nationwide."

Letters About Literature is a national reading-writing contest that asks students in grades 4-12 to write a personal letter to an author, explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. Letters About Literature is sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, in partnership with Target Stores, and is administered statewide by the Indiana Center for the Book.

These finalists all received GiftCards courtesy of Target® and the Indiana Center for the Book. All semifinalists and finalists also received a certificate and a copy of one of two Helen Frost novels, including *Diamond Willow* and *Crossing Stones*. Students in attendance on Saturday had an opportunity meet to Ms. Frost during an exclusive book signing following the awards ceremony at the Indiana State Library.

The Indiana Center for the Book also honored teachers Ms. Monica Plantan and Ms. Jenni East of Zionsville Middle School during the ceremony with its third-annual Letters About Literature Instructor of the Year Award. Over the past two years, the duo has had over 100 students enter the national competition, of which 20 were state semifinalists, five were state finalists, and one student, Dominic Rossi, was this year's first-place winner for Level I (grades 4-6). Dominic was also the only Indiana student, and only 1 of 14 students nationwide, to make the final round of national judging in his grade level.

"I would like to thank Helen Frost, Ms. Plantan and Ms. East, and the hundreds of students and proud parents who joined us on Saturday," said Corridan. "Letters About Literature is an exciting and educational program for everyone involved and this year's record numbers of state semifinalists and ceremony attendees is testament to the program's growing popularity."

*Continued on right...*



Dear Michael Pollan,

I thought I knew exactly what was in French fries: potatoes and grease. From reading your book, The Omnivore's Dilemma: Young Reader's Edition, I learned I was very wrong. America's French fries contain a mixture of water, fertilizer, pesticides, and some Monitor, a chemical so toxic humans aren't allowed into the field for a week after it is sprayed. Definitely a few more ingredients than I thought and certainly not the kind I would like in my body.

Like you, I never gave a ton of thought to where my food came from (although I've always questioned school lunches...). After I read your book, I began to think of the food industry differently. It showed that this industry isn't completely honest. I could walk into a fast food restaurant and see a sign that reads, "Eat our 'super-mega-oversized-triple-cheeseburger-from-a-cow-in-a-super-mega-oversized-feedalot' and our 'Monitor fries' for a healthy lunch!" All fast food restaurants care about is money, not quality. They twist the facts to encourage consumers to believe that what the restaurant calls "healthy" is actually good for them. It makes me wonder if the edible objects sold in restaurants and supermarkets across the country are really "food". I'm really surprised that many Americans choose to eat this processed "food" every day and think nothing of it. People know it isn't the healthiest choice, but since junk food is cheap & convenient, it's a common purchase for many people. The price may be low, but what are the long term costs?

After reading your book, The Omnivore's Dilemma: Young Reader's Edition, I realized why my mom tries to buy organic food as much as possible and why she drags me to the local farmer's market on Saturday mornings. I now distrust much of the "food" packaged in boxes, many of the local restaurants, supermarket meat, and most definitely the scary school "lunches".

I know for a fact that I'll never look at French fries the same way again. I sometimes have them as an occasional treat, but now I wonder if I'm actually treating myself to Monitor, chemicals, and pesticides.

Organically yours,

Dominic Rossi

Sixth Grade, Zionsville Middle School

The 16 finalists, including the author to which they wrote, are as follows:

#### Level I (grades 4-6)

1st Place: Dominic Rossi, Zionsville Middle School (Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*)

2nd Place: Quinn Kennedy, Zionsville Middle School (Beverly Cleary, *Beezus & Ramona*)

3rd Place: Sunanda Prasad, Castle North (Newburgh) Middle School (Enid Blyton, *Secret Seven Series*)

Hon. Mention: Nia Rochon, Evansville Day School (Pam Munoz Ryan, *Esperanza Rising*)

Hon. Mention: Mia Lord, Riverside (Fishers) Intermediate School (Randy Pausch, *The Last Lecture*)

#### Level II (grades 7-8)

1st Place: Evelin Arriaza, Hasten Hebrew Academy (Indpls) (Margaret Peterson Haddix, *Because of Anya*)

2nd Place: Cassidy Ratliff, West Noble (Ligonier) Middle School (Anne Frank, *The Diary of a Young Girl*)

3rd Place: Chelsea Meeboer, Pittsboro (Francine Rivers, *Redeeming Love*)

Hon. Mention: Christina Barnes, Zionsville West Middle School (Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*)

Hon. Mention: Anat Berday-Saks, Hasten Hebrew Academy (Indianapolis) (Katherine Ayres, *North by Night*)

#### Level III (grades 9-12)

1st Place: Hannah Chalmers, Crawfordsville High School (Virginia Lee Burton, *Mike Mulligan & His Steam Shovel*)

2nd Place: Nicole Tzenov, New Tech Academy (Fort Wayne) (Sue Monk Kidd, *The Secret Life of Bees*)

3rd Place: Shelby Orange, Clinton Prairie (Frankfort) High School (Markus Zusak, *The Book Thief*)

Hon. Mention: Josh Levesque, Crawfordsville High School (J. D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*)

Hon. Mention: Mary Eshelman, Logansport High School (Davida Wills Hurwin, *A Time for Dancing*)

Hon. Mention: Emily Shirar, Crawfordsville High School (Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*)



# INDIANA STATE LIBRARY NEWS RELEASE

## Center for the Book Names 2011 Best Books of Indiana

### *Hoosier Authors take annual competition's top honors*

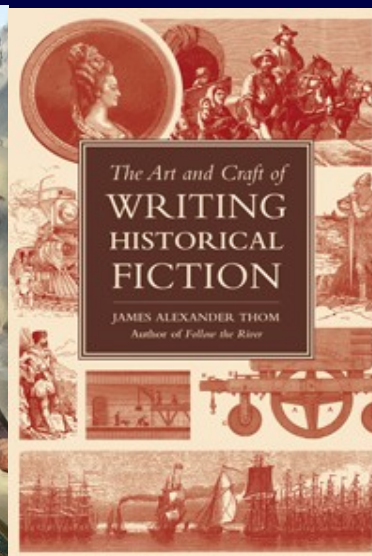
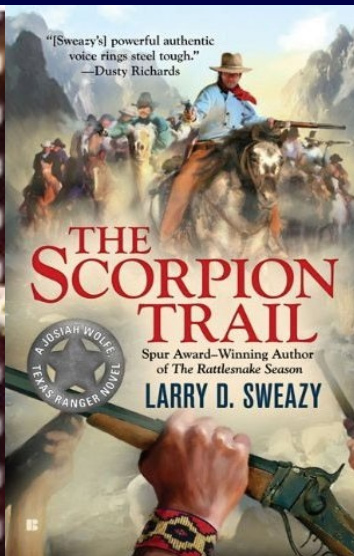
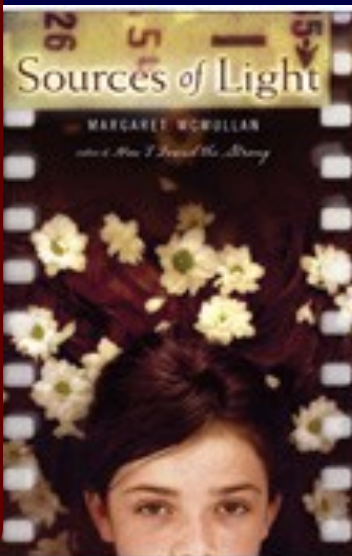
INDIANAPOLIS (September 6, 2011) - Winners and finalists have been named for the 2011 Best Books of Indiana Competition in each of four categories - children's/young adult, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. The Indiana Center for the Book in the Indiana State Library thanks the many authors and publishers that entered the seventh-annual contest.

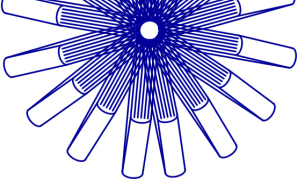
University of Evansville English Professor Margaret McMullan became the competition's first three-time winner this year. She won previously in 2008 (*When I crossed No-bob*) and 2005 (*How I found the strong*). Notable award-winning author James Alexander Thom won the nonfiction category with his first entry in the competition's seven-year history. Poet Edward Byrne became the first entrant to have multiple finalist selections in a single year. Fiction category winner Larry Sweazy was a finalist in the same category last year (*The Rattlesnake Season*). The Indiana Historical Society Press led all publishers with three finalist selections. Since the competition began in 2005, IHS Press has had at least two titles selected as finalists each year.

"It is a privilege to recognize this terrific group of Indiana authors," said Roberta Brooker, Indiana State Librarian. "One copy of each Best Book will permanently join the works of great Hoosier authors like Gene Stratton Porter, James Whitcomb Riley and Kurt Vonnegut within the State Library's Indiana Authors Room."

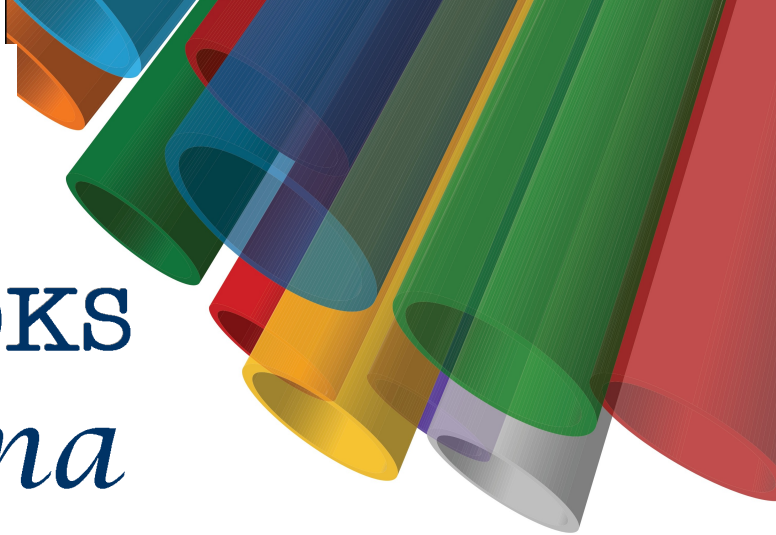
Each category's winning title and author will be engraved on a plaque in the Indiana Authors Room. One copy of each finalist entry will remain housed in the Authors Room indefinitely. Two copies of all 2011 Best Books of Indiana entries have been added to the State Library's collection. Indiana residents can borrow any Best Books of Indiana title from the State Library or request a copy via interlibrary loan at their local public library.

The Indiana Center for the Books administers the Best Books of Indiana contest annually and accepts entries from Hoosier authors or books that have an Indiana theme or setting. The competition accepts books published between January 1 and December 31 of the previous year and consists of four categories - children's/young adult, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. A panel of judges in each category considered all entries and chose finalists at their discretion. Entries were judged on the quality of writing, with organization and interpretation also considered.





# BEST BOOKS *of Indiana*



## Best Books and Finalists 2011

### Children/Young Adult Category:

**Winner:** *Sources of Light* by Margaret McMullan (Evansville). Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Boston.

**Finalist:** *Nature's Storyteller: The Life of Gene Stratton-Porter* by Barbara Olenyik Morrow (Auburn, IN). Indiana Historical Society Press, Indianapolis.

**Finalist:** *Summer Sanctuary* by Laurie Gray (Fort Wayne). Luminis Books, Carmel, IN.

### Fiction Category:

**Winner:** *The Scorpion Trail* by Larry Sweazy (Noblesville). Berkley Publishing Group, New York.

**Finalist:** *Bedlam at the Brickyard* by Brenda Stewart ( Mooresville). Cardinal Publishing, Indianapolis.

**Finalist:** *The Boy from the O* by Sandy Kendall (Indianapolis). Author House, Bloomington.

### Nonfiction Category:

**Winner:** *The Art of Writing Nonfiction* by James Alexander Thom (Bloomington, IN). Writer's Digest Books, Cincinnati.

**Finalist:** *Blood Shed in this War: Civil War Illustrations by Captain Adolph Metzner, 32nd Indiana* by Michael A. Peake (Corydon). Indiana Historical Society Press, Indianapolis.

**Finalist:** *Growing Up with Bakers Corner* by Ellen Swain (Champaign, IL). Hawthorne Publishing, Carmel, IN.

**Finalist:** *Maria's Journey* by Ramon & Trisha Arredondo (Crown Point). Indiana Historical Society Press, Indianapolis.

### Poetry Category:

**Winner:** *Shadows Set in Concrete* by J.L. Kato (Beech Grove). Restoration Press, Indianapolis.

**Finalist:** *Seeded Light* by Edward Byrne (Valparaiso). Turning Point Books, Cincinnati.

**Finalist:** *Poetry from Paradise Valley* by Edward Byrne. Pecan Grove Press, San Antonio.





# What Indiana Means to Me



## INDIANA STATEHOOD DAY ESSAY CONTEST

The Indiana Center for the Book administers the 'What Indiana Means to Me' Essay Contest each year as part of Indiana's Statehood Day Celebration. The Essay Contest takes place annually in October and November and is open to all Indiana fourth graders. All Indiana students are taught Indiana history as part of the fourth-grade curriculum.

The Center for the Book began administering the contest in 2008. That year, there were approximately 1,000 entries. By 2010, over 2,900 Indiana fourth graders entered the contest. The contest is judged by the staff of the Indiana State Library who select contest finalists and by the Governor's Office and State Librarian who selects the first, second and third place winners. All winners, along with their class, are invited to attend the Statehood Day Ceremony.

Van Rensselaer Elementary School fourth-grade student Jack Parrish won the 2011 contest. He was presented an award, a \$500 college scholarship and four tickets to an Indianapolis Colts football game from Indiana State Treasure Tim Berry, State Representative Douglas Gutwein (R-Rensselaer) and Indiana Supreme Court Justice Steven H. David in front of over 1,000 attendees at the 2011 Statehood Day Celebration at the Indiana Statehouse.

Three more students selected from over 2,200 entries were also recognized, including:

- **2nd Place:** Dilhara Moonesinghe - Sycamore Elementary (Kokomo)
  - **3rd Place:** Xander Wilson - New Britton Elementary (Fishers)
  - **Honorable Mention:** Nicholas Roberts - Sheridan Elementary School
- 



*There is going to be a big birthday celebration and you're invited! The celebration of Indiana's Statehood is December 9, 2011. I'm an Indiana Hoosier, growing up in rural Indiana. I learn about community, history, and government, in a small town way. I am excited to learn about my state's government and how it became a state during this celebration. Here is what Indiana means to me.*

*In my little City of Rensselaer, we study Indiana History in fourth grade. In September we hold a festival called Little Cousin Jasper. This festival is important because it is named after a character in a poem by James Whitcomb Riley, a famous Indiana poet. The Iroquois River runs through my county, Jasper County. Even though it is not a big river, Charles Halleck, an Indiana Hoosier, and for U.S. State Representative, used to dock his little rowboat at the river's edge. Indianapolis, Indiana, is my state capitol. I have not been in the Statehouse, but I have been downtown. Did you know that there is a circle right in the center of the city that you can drive around? I have visited the Indianapolis Zoo and the Children's Museum. One day I plan to go to Lucas Oil Stadium to see a Colts game.*

*There are many places to visit and activities to do in Indiana. You can attend The Feast of the Hunter's Moon at Fort Quiatenon, in Lafayette. Turkey Run State Park is a great place to camp, with awesome rock formations made by the glaciers of years ago. French Lick is a nice adventure, if you like indoor water parks. I took my first roller coaster ride ever at Indiana Beach in Monticello. But one of the best places to visit in the summer is the Indiana State Fair. At the state fair you learn about the agriculture of Indiana.*

*Growing up in a farming community in the State of Indiana is the best life for me. My family helps the economy of Indiana. As I grew up in Indiana, I learn about my state in fourth grade, along with my visits to Indiana sights. Future fourth graders will read about the 195th birthday celebration of Indiana's statehood one day, while I celebrate it this year. I am one Hoosier who can say, I know what Indiana means to me! Happy Birthday, Indiana!*

*Jack Parrish, Sixth Grade*

*Van Rensselaer Elementary School*

# IN THE WORKS –2012 & BEYOND

## INDIANA LITERARY MAP

The *Indiana Literary Map* is an interactive literary heritage tool that displays and describes the rich history of Indiana authors and literature. This project, now in its initial state, will serve the Indiana Center for the Book's goals of promoting Indiana's literary history and the works of Hoosier authors.

The *Indiana Literary Map* will promote Indiana authors past and present, the Hoosier communities in which they lived, and significant literary and cultural landmarks made famous through Indiana authors and their literature. The project will invoke Hoosier pride, support the reading of Indiana-authored works, and promote the state's prominent place in the history of American literature.

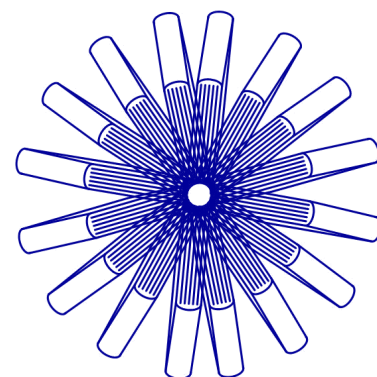
From Indiana's Golden Age of literature in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to the more contemporary Hoosier authors like the late Kurt Vonnegut, Indiana's distinguished literary history continues to be written. The online *Indiana Literary Map* will accordingly allow the Indiana Center for the Book to add to the state's growing list of authors as they are discovered.

## OUR HEROES TREE

Through the Our Heroes' Tree initiative, libraries are able to honor the contributions of past and present service members while also creating an awareness of military families affected by current military deployments. All public libraries are invited to participate by hanging ornaments adorning the faces of American servicemen and women.

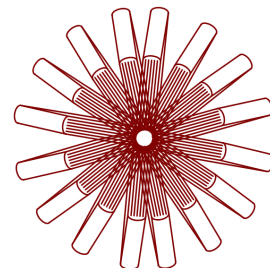


This program was incredibly successful from 2008-2010 with upwards of 80 Indiana libraries participating in the initiative. However, in 2010 the Military Family Research Institute abruptly dropped the program due to lack of funding. Given the program's past success, the Center for the Book looks to continue offering the Our Heroes Tree program in its existing form as well as add new reading and discussion components.





# CONTINUED...



## RIVER OF WORDS

In 2008, the Indiana Center for the Book became a full partner in the River of Words international poetry and art contest. Today, we are eager to once again participate in the program as we await further information about the contest during its reorganization.

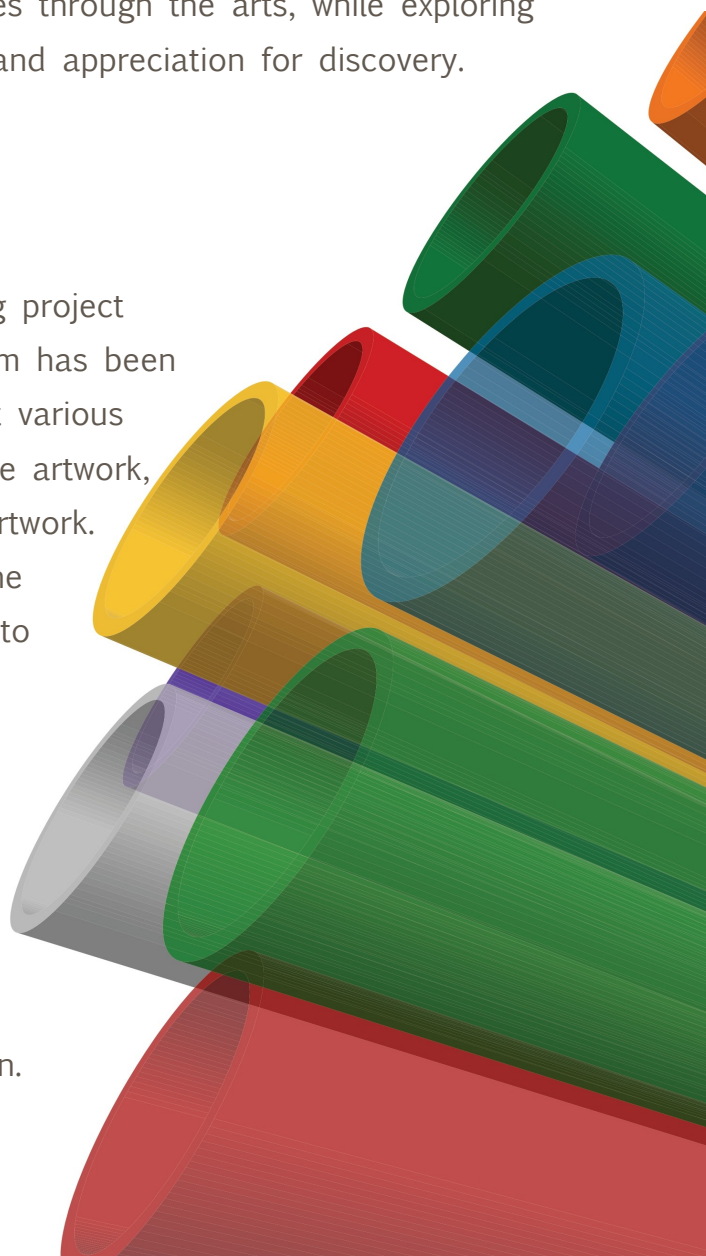


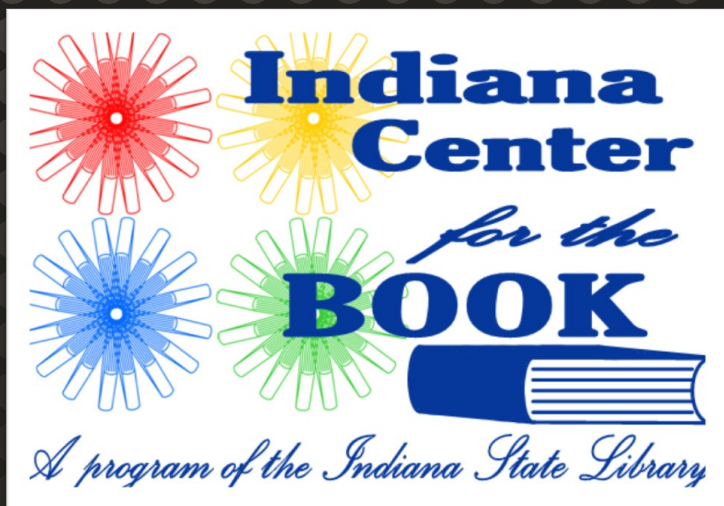
The Center will handle the administration of the River of Words program, including judging, ceremonies, awards and publications. The Center looks forward drawing out Indiana's best poetry and art talent and helping young Hoosiers express themselves through the arts, while exploring their environment and developing a sense of place and appreciation for discovery.

## DRAWN TO READING

The "Drawn to Reading" program is a service-learning project designed to promote literacy. In the past, the program has been a collaborative effort between third-grade students at various Elementary schools in Muncie, Indiana, who create the artwork, and Ball State University students, who digitize the artwork. The colorful, award-winning bookmarks drawn from the imagination of young Hoosiers are available for free to all Indiana schools and library.

Similar to the Our Heroes Tree program, Drawn to Reading had to take a step back due to the loss of a donor for printing services. In the coming year the Center for the Book plans to work with Ball State University on ways to reinvigorate program and develop model that supports statewide implementation.





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